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Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

Weekly Numbers, 1½d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1s. 8d.; half-yearly, 3s. 3d.; yearly, 6s. 6d. All Subscriptions must be paid in advance. Back Numbers can still be obtained at the Office.

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions.

The General Editor gives the widest possible latitude to each of the Societies represented in this Paper, and is only responsible for unsigned matter occurring in the pages devoted to general items.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,

13, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

The paper is on sale at Messrs. Smith & Son's Depots.

'Women's Franchise.'

A JUST completed balance-sheet has warned us that we are in serious danger of running into debt. To avoid this we have this week reduced our pages to eight—not without great regret, as it means withholding articles, cartoons, and correspondence of both merit and interest. However, we anticipate that our friends will at once enable us to resume our twelve-page paper. Our circulation is gradually rising, and we still look forward hopefully to independence in the future. We shall be pleased to send a balance-sheet to all donors; but we may here mention that rent, rates, taxes, and business management are still being performed for the sum of 1*l.* weekly, that editorial expenses are still nil, and that the actual cost of production is accomplished at a charge of only 25 per cent above the trades union rate of wages paid to workmen. We doubt if any weekly journal has ever been conducted more economically, and we feel we have a right to ask our friends to send sufficient money to enable us to continue.

MISS I. MARGESSON has sent 3*s.* 3*d.* for this paper to be sent to The Ladies' Dwellings Company, Lower Sloane Street, for six months, and Miss May Hagon has sent for a parcel of specimen copies of this paper to distribute at Ockley and has sent postage for same; also we have received another 2*s.* to enable us to employ the sandwich board man. For this small sum of money a man walks the West End carrying the design with which we decorated our motor car on that memorable 13th of June, gives away to likely people 400 back numbers of the paper, and usually sells one or two of the week's issue.

WE expect to publish the Index to our first volume next week. We shall be glad to receive orders for the same 2½*d.* post free, or for the volume containing it 6*s.*

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

OBJECT.—To obtain the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to Men.

The Union is a Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A.

Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON.

Hon. Secretaries: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A. MISS WARD.

Organisers: MISS E. M. GARDNER, B.A. MISS MARGARET ROBERTSON.

Telephone: 1960 VICTORIA.

Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

OFFICES: 25, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.

The Union will send Organising Agents, Speakers, or Literature to any place requiring them, its desire being to form a Women's Suffrage Society in every County and Borough. All persons interested in the movement, or desiring information about it, are requested to communicate with the Secretaries. Increased Funds are needed for the growing work of the Union, and Subscriptions will be gladly received by the Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. E. McLAREN.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON
THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR
MISS FLORENCE BALGARNIE
MRS. ALLAN BRIGHT

MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT, M.P.
MISS EDITH DIMOCK
MISS I. O. FORD
MISS MARTINDALE, M.B., B.S.

MRS. BROADLEY REID
HON. BERTRAND RUSSELL
MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN
MISS LOWNDES

MISS WARD
LADY STRACHEY
And the Hon. Officers,
ex officio.

Current Topics.

We would remind our readers that the Report of the Conference of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, recently held at Amsterdam, is now published, and can be obtained at the office price 1s. 4d., postage 2d. The report will be found of great value to all interested in the question, and especially occupied in propaganda, either as speakers, writers, or organizers.

The writer of the letter signed "A Member of the N.U.W.S.S.," which was published in last week's issue, will be glad to hear that it has borne good fruit, and many orders for our badge have been received in consequence.

The Committee of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association met at 2, Leinster Street on Thursday, the 6th inst., Lady Dockrell, U.D.C., presiding. Interesting accounts were given of the two great Demonstrations in London upon the 13th and 21st of June, in the former of which nine members of the committee and nearly one hundred Irishwomen took part. Twenty-five new members have joined the Association since last meeting. *Women's Franchise* is now supplied gratis to twelve leading libraries and news rooms in the city and suburbs. The Hon. Secretary reported that 99 women Poor Law Guardians had been returned, or co-opted at the recent elections, 37 of them being Rural District Councillors as well, which shows a considerable advance upon the elections of 1905. By the kind permission of the Lord Mayor, arrangements are being made for holding a public meeting in the Mansion House upon Friday, September 4th, during the visit of the British Association. Further particulars of the speakers, &c., will be published later on.

The Woman's Journal, Boston, for July 18th contains a brilliant article on Mrs. Humphry Ward's now famous letter to *The Times*. The subject has already been dealt with in our columns, so we will only quote the first and last sentences:—

"Mrs. Humphry Ward has published in the *London Times* a letter on Woman Suffrage in America, which will be read by all well-informed American Suffragists with a mixture of amazement, amusement, and indignation. . . . The National American Woman Suffrage Association is growing in membership every year. It might telegraph to England in reply to Mrs. Ward's article, as that distinguished American Suffragist, Mark Twain, is said once to have telegraphed: 'Reports of my death much exaggerated.'"

Mrs. Stanbury, Miss Rowlette and Miss Robertson have held most successful meetings at Milford. Large crowds assembled to hear them, and the local paper describes them as having "fairly captivated Milfordians." On their part the speakers paid a tribute to the local press for the full and fair reports which had been given to their meetings.

A meeting for women was held in the Assembly Rooms, Ambleside, on July 29th, for the purpose of forming a branch of the National Union. Mrs. Cunliffe (Croft) presided, and was elected president, Miss Sharp (Silverthwaite) being elected Vice-President.

A meeting was held recently at the Town Hall, Halstead. There was a crowded attendance, the great majority of those present being women—of all classes. The eloquence and intense earnestness of the speeches had their effect, and at the close the expressions were remarkably unanimous and enthusiastic. Addresses were delivered by Miss Corbett and Mrs. Rackham.

The exhibition of banners in Cambridge was most successful. Owing to pressure on our space, we withhold the details of the visit till next issue.

Caravan Tour.

So far the caravan has more than justified its existence. We have had excellent audiences and splendid collections. The Scotch people are delightful and most generous, and have shown us the greatest sympathy.

I find that with our van and luggage we get over the ground more slowly than I had expected, and I have had to alter our route a little. We hope that it will cause no disappointment among our friends. We have to bring back the van to Beattock by August 31st, and time forbids us to visit all the places we would wish. We find that we can do far better Suffrage work by going a short distance each day and holding a midday and evening meeting in the same place.

Miss Fraser, Miss Taylor (Birmingham), and I met at Selkirk on August 4th. On the 5th we held two meetings at Melrose; in the evening Miss Abadam joined us, and we went on to Kelso, where we again held two meetings. Yesterday we had one at Coldstream, and to-day we are settled in a somewhat public field in Berwick, where we intend holding three meetings.

Miss Marrack and Miss Davies (Newnham) join us to-day, and we hope to be able to hold two sets of meetings, one with the van and one with bicycles.

The Feminist Congress in Paris.

THE interest taken in the International Feminist Congress lately held in Paris shows the advance which has been made in France in all matters relating to women's work and to the position they occupy legally, socially, and economically.

The aim of the Congress, as stated on the programme, was "To define the rights and claims of women and to hasten the realization of them." The leaders of all the societies interested in the welfare and progress of women took part, and it was without doubt the most representative and important gathering of its kind which has ever been held in the country. The Congress was opened on June 26th by Madame Bogelot, who, in her opening speech, pointed out that what women were striving for was the ultimate advancement and improvement of the race, and that this could only be accomplished when women took their share equally with men in the world's work, duties, and responsibilities.

Madame Vincent, the President, gave a brief, but most interesting account of former Congresses, and of the great advance made in the woman's movement throughout Europe. An animated discussion followed on the present state of the

French law with regard to international marriages, in which many delegates took part, including M. Etienne Leduc, *licencié en droit*, and Madame Marguerite Durand, who suggested that married women should always retain their spinster nationality. This was not favourably received, and a resolution was passed that Article 12 of the Civil Code should be amended in order to allow a foreigner, when married to a Frenchman, to be naturalized at her own request and without any conditions. Also that Article 19 should enact that a Frenchwoman, married to a foreigner, retains her nationality, if she so desires. Madame Gabrielle Louis proposed a resolution in favour of married women being allowed to carry on business independently of their husbands, and without the latter's consent. This, however, was shown to be illegal where community of property formed the basis of the marriage. After much discussion the motion was passed, but only dealing with the cases where the marriage agreement stated that each party retained control over their individual property. Among other questions discussed were the position of illegitimate children and the rights of the mother.

The most important incident in the second sitting was the announcement, made by M. Maurice Faure, that the Upper Chamber was favourably disposed towards women's claims. The principal item on the programme was the question of divorce and of property in marriage. Striking scenes took place during the discussion, and it was evident that strong passions were aroused, and respect for the chair was sometimes set at naught. After a long and heated discussion, divorce by mutual consent was adopted, while that at the desire of one of the parties was rejected. Separation was condemned, and a protest was made against the custom of obliging a woman to adopt her husband's name. The Congress was unanimous in condemning the law which made the husband the sole "parent" of the children.

Thirty years ago the question of Women's Suffrage was considered "outside the region of practical politics," but now a large and ever-increasing number of women are urgently demanding it and it was evidently one of the most popular subjects with which the Congress had to deal. The discussion came on in the third sitting. "The Suffrage Movement in England" roused great enthusiasm. Two English delegates gave accounts of the progress of the movement in our country, and their speeches were greeted with vigorous applause, while the chamber rang with cries of "Vive l'Entente Cordiale!" The resolution demanding for women the same privileges regarding the Suffrage as men now enjoy was, of course, unanimously adopted. Among the speakers were Mlle. Madeleine Pelletier, a well-known doctor, and editor of *La Suffragiste*, and Madame May de Witte, one of the leaders of the French feminist movement.

County Campaign Fund.

FURTHER donations, with totals to date:—		£	s.	d.
Berks.—Miss Hawkins	.. ..	0	2	6
Bucks.—Miss C. I. Morison	.. ..	1	2	6
Camb.—Mrs. Bidder	.. ..	1	0	0
Mrs. Ward	.. ..	1	0	0
Cheshire.—Miss Edwards	.. ..	0	2	6
Misses Jessop	.. ..	0	1	6
Mrs. Monkhouse	.. ..	1	0	0
Denbigh.—Mrs. Mahler	.. ..	3	6	0
Derby.—Mrs. Shuttleworth Boden	.. ..	5	0	0
Deron.—Mrs. Pilsbury	.. ..	15	0	0
Dublin.—Mrs. Spring Rice	.. ..	2	0	0
Hants.—Mrs. Grant Robertson	.. ..	1	0	0
Miss A. Bateson	.. ..	0	5	0
New Forest W.S.S. (collected)	.. ..	1	1	0
		0	8	6
		4	2	0

Kent.—Mrs. Cockburn Curtis	.. ..	0	2	6
Mrs. Hickmott	.. ..	0	2	0
		20	3	6
Lancs.—Miss Bæwring	.. ..	1	0	0
Miss H. M. Jones	.. ..	5	0	0
Miss Olivia Jones	.. ..	0	10	6
		44	10	6
Leicester.—Mrs. Evans	.. ..	2	2	0
London.—Walter McLaren, Esq.	.. ..	50	0	0
Mrs. Illingworth	.. ..	105	0	0
Mrs. Greenwood	.. ..	0	10	0
Misses Smith	.. ..	0	10	0
James Eccles, Esq.	.. ..	10	0	0
Miss Maskell	.. ..	1	0	0
Mrs. Wood	.. ..	1	1	0
		281	7	6

Want of space prevents the inclusion of all names and amounts received; but the Grand Total to Saturday, Aug. 8, was 520l. 12s. 6d.

Branch Societies.

BOURNEMOUTH.—We held a garden party in the grounds of the Garden Tea House, The Square, on July 24th, for members and friends, which was highly successful. At 5 o'clock the chairman, — Mackenzie, Esq., introduced Miss Mordan, the oldest Suffragist in Bournemouth. Her speech was short, pithy, and well received. She was followed by Miss Robertson, B.A., of London, who kept her audience well in hand. There was not a dull moment during the three-quarters of an hour which she occupied, and she certainly gave both Suffragists and their friends plenty to think about. Discussion and questions followed, and a liberal collection was taken. After the chairman's closing remarks, Mrs. Rowe, President of the Society, proposed the usual votes of thanks, which Dr. Mary Jeremy seconded.

CARDIFF.—On July 31st, after addressing a garden meeting at Mrs. Lester Jones's, Llandough, the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell spoke at a small open meeting organized by the Cardiff and District Society, and held at St. Catherine's, by kind permission of Miss Kate Richards.

Dr. Eric Evans, who presided, sketched in a few words the election policy of the various societies and unions which have Women's Suffrage for their aim, and showed how the N.U.W.S.S., by converting the electorate, would eventually convert the Government. Mrs. Bertrand Russell gave a delightful speech, in which she called upon every woman present to work with earnest enthusiasm for the common cause.

Her audience fully appreciated her remarks, and a vote of thanks, proposed by Miss Janet Price, and seconded by Miss Nautet, was heartily carried.

Seventeen badges and several copies of J. S. Mill's 'Subjection of Woman' were sold, and this very interesting meeting closed with five members added to our rapidly growing roll.

KINGSTON AND SURBITON.—A meeting was recently held at Kingston. The speakers were Miss Hammond and Mrs. Wilson, who were well supported by local ladies and gentlemen. Questions were invited at the close of the meeting, and several were put and answered. A gentleman in the crowd moved a vote of thanks to the speakers, which was heartily accorded.

WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON.—A garden meeting was held under the auspices of the above Society at the Manor House Farm, Whitnash, on Tuesday, July 21st. The chair was taken by the Rev. A. H. M. Russell, vicar of Whitnash; Mrs. Dykes of Leamington addressed the meeting, and was listened to with much interest, and the usual resolution was carried unanimously.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

August 13, 27, Sept. 10 and 24, Hull, President and Committee At Home to meet Members of the Society at No. 3 Room, Oddfellows' Hall, Charlotte Street, at 8 p.m.
Aug. 18. Grimsby, Afternoon Meeting Chair, Dr. Murdoch 3 P.M.
Speakers, Mrs. F. Richardson Miss A. Jackson.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League (late W.S.P.U.).

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. GRAHAM MOFFAT.

NATIONAL OFFICES: 18, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, W.C.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.S.C., A.R.C.S.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.

National Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

Open-Air Meetings.

THESE last few weeks the clerk of the weather has been particularly favourable and indulgent to our open-air meetings, which have been very frequent and successful in consequence. At Brockwell Park, in particular, there has been a series of open-air meetings, which have brought out a new feature in our campaign, that I hope will develop both here and at other open-air meetings. I refer to the incident of those men in the audience who have come forward (with a truer chivalry than that which has lately been so much discussed in the newspapers) to offer their help in practical action. At the first Brockwell Park meeting Mrs. Despard and Miss Molony were the speakers. So much enthusiasm was roused that some of the men in the audience offered to do anything they could to help. And one of them suggested going on a deputation to Mr. Asquith to demand that the vote should be given to women. At the second meeting several more men gave in their names as willing to go on the deputation; and, there being by that time a sufficient number who were prepared to come forward, one of them was deputed to write to Mr. Asquith and inquire whether he would be willing to receive a deputation, to which Mr. Asquith's Secretary replied:—

10, Downing Street, Whitehall, S.W.
July 21st, 1908.

SIR.—In reply to your letter of the 16th inst., I am directed by the Prime Minister to say he regrets that the little time at his disposal will not allow him to receive the deputation which you suggest on the subject of Women's Suffrage.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
MARK STURGIS.

Some members of the would-be deputation then met together to consider their next step, and it was decided that each of them should interview his own member at the House of Commons, and ask him what he intended to do to help through the Women's Suffrage Bill which is now before the House.

Several of them have already sought and obtained an interview, and when Parliament reassembles these friends of ours, who have the power of the vote in their hands, mean to carry on this campaign in the House of Commons; and they will undoubtedly recruit other voters to join their ranks. Last Sunday Miss Molony spoke again at Brockwell Park to a large and enthusiastic audience, who showed their sympathy by contributing a generous collection at the end of the meeting.

On Sunday afternoon in Hyde Park there was a large and attentive crowd which gathered to hear Dr. Thornett, Mrs. John Brindley, and Mrs. Belva Lockwood. The eloquence of these fine speakers held the audience from half-past three o'clock till six. On the following morning letters were received from men sympathizers in the audience, asking what they could do to help us. They were invited to join the ranks of our Brockwell Park supporters, and help to carry out their plan of putting pressure on their own particular representatives in Parliament.

We hope that those men all over the country, who are convinced that it is the just right of their women fellow-citizens to have a voice in the making of the laws under which we all live, will follow the example of the Brockwell Park stalwarts. The procedure is as simple as it is strong. When Parliament reassembles, let every man voter who is our friend go boldly up to the House of Commons, ask to see the member who is his

representative, whom his vote has helped to send to that House, and demand that as his representative, that member shall do his utmost to put pressure on the Government to pass the Women's Enfranchisement Bill before the end of the session.

A good Example.—A member of the Women's Freedom League writes: "Acting on an excellent suggestion lately put forward in *Women's Franchise*, I have withdrawn from a certain political organization (intimating, of course, my reasons for doing so) a subscription of 4s. a quarter, in order to devote the money instead to the cause of Women's Suffrage, the cause that before all others has the first and strongest claim on every woman's resources. I have therefore much pleasure in forwarding the first instalment along with my usual quarterly subscription."

At the "At Home" at Caxton Hall on Thursday, August 6th, Mrs. Belva Lockwood, in an eloquent and delightful speech, gave a message of greeting to the Women's Freedom League from the Women's Suffrage Society of the district of Columbia, the oldest Women's Suffrage Society in the world. Mrs. Belva Lockwood, the first woman lawyer to practise in America, gave a most interesting account of her struggles, thirty years ago, to obtain admission as a lawyer into the law courts in America. At the end of the meeting a resolution was unanimously and enthusiastically passed that "This meeting of the Women's Freedom League sends fraternal greeting to the Women's Suffrage Society of the District of Columbia; expresses sympathy with its aims and noble and useful work, and gratitude for the kindly message of greeting and goodwill conveyed by Mrs. Belva Lockwood."

Signed by MARION HOLMES, Chairman.
HELEN BOURCHIER, M.D., Social Organizer.

Subscriptions and Donations.

June.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Miss M. Saunders	0 5 0	Dr. Margaret Wilson	..	..	0 2 6
Mrs. F. Murray	5 0 0	Mrs. Fels	..	..	100 0 0
Collections at Ladybank	Miss N. Catty	..	..	0 10 0
per Mrs. Donaldson	1 4 8½	Miss G. White	..	..	0 1 0
Scottish Council—profit on	16 3 2	Mr. Jno. Hughes	..	..	0 2 6
Glasgow Meeting	1 1 0	Miss Gosnell	..	..	0 5 0
Mrs. Stuart Black	1 10 0	Miss Finigan	..	..	0 5 0
The Misses Hutchins	0 5 0	Mrs. Bastian	..	..	3 0 0
Mrs. Bevan	0 5 0	Mrs. Young	..	..	0 1 0
Mrs. J. S. Brown	0 10 0	Miss O'Waller	..	..	10 0 0
Miss Booth Scott	0 10 0	Collections at Stirling	..	..	32 1 0
Miss Bertram	0 10 0	per Mrs. Billington-Greig	..	..	0 2 6
Miss Groves	0 10 0	Miss E. B. Wallace	..	..	0 1 6
Miss Gibson	0 2 6	Miss L. M. Thomas	..	..	0 1 6
The Misses Saunders	0 5 0	Mrs. McArthur	..	..	0 2 6
Miss Lyons	0 1 0	Miss Eustace Smith	..	..	0 10 0
Miss Marshall	0 1 0	Mrs. Renold	..	..	1 1 0
Miss L. G. Woolf	0 2 6	Edinburgh Branch, proceeds of	..	..	5 17 0
Miss MackWall	0 2 6	sale	..	..	0 2 0
Miss A. M. Pell	0 5 0	Mrs. A. Stewart	..	..	2 2 0
Mrs. Solomon	0 1 0	Mr. C. Cooper, per Mrs. Bevan	..	..	2 5 0
Mrs. Kroemer	0 1 0	Mrs. Bevan	..	..	1 0 0
Mrs. and Miss Fox Bourne	1 0 0	Lady Elliott Drake	..	..	1 0 0
Miss Eaton	0 1 0	Miss E. J. Sherwood	..	..	1 0 0
Miss Milne	0 2 6	Miss A. Sherwood	..	..	0 1 0
Miss K. Wilson	0 3 0	Miss L. Vincent	..	..	0 1 0
Miss O'Brien	0 2 6	Mrs. Snow	..	..	1 1 0
Miss Seruya	0 5 0	Miss Dora Patching	..	..	0 5 0
Miss Drinnie	0 1 0	Bronley Branch	..	..	0 1 0
Mrs. Moss	0 10 0	Mrs. Courtenay Scott	..	..	0 10 0
Miss Benett	1 0 0	Miss Brandon	..	..	0 10 6
Anonymous	0 10 0	Miss Stacy	..	..	0 10 0
Miss Collett	0 0 6	Mrs. Thomas	..	..	0 2 0
Miss C. Fleet	0 5 0	Dr. and Mrs. Drysdale	..	..	2 12 6
Mrs. Davies	0 2 0	Miss M. Feltham	..	..	0 1 0
Miss Glynn	1 5 0	Miss Armitage	..	..	0 2 6
				Jumble Sale, per Miss Mansell	..	..	13 1 4

Women's Freedom League Caravan.

BETWEEN HAILSHAM AND BATTLE.—I joined the van at Eastbourne, on Monday, August 3rd, Miss Neilans having taken it up on the preceding Thursday, and Miss Lenn, of the York Branch, having joined her on Saturday.

Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, who is taking a "rest cure" at Eastbourne, and finding her rest in hard work for the cause, had paved the way for us; and it was due partly, no doubt, to this that we found everything so easy and pleasant at Eastbourne. The Misses Reid, one of whom has been for years a strenuous fighter, not only for women, but for children and oppressed nationalities, gave me generous hospitality, while the girls slept in the van.

On the Monday we held a drawing-room meeting at the house of Miss Ellen Vaughan, when Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett took the chair, and Miss Neilans and I spoke on the history, policy, and prospects of the League. The result was a collection of no less than 32s., and what was still more cheering to us, the beginning of an Eastbourne Branch of the Women's Freedom League.

In the evening, and while on the beach, pier, and promenades, holiday folk were moving to and fro, and all sorts of entertainments were in progress, an earnest crowd gathered under the Princess Alice tree, where for a week past, nightly meetings have been held, and listened with the deepest attention to our addresses. The admirable discussion which followed showed the keen interest of the audience, and the prize of a signed portrait post-card offered by Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett for the most intelligent question, was won by a lady. The collection amounted to 17s. 4½d. On Tuesday morning, I met the van at the station, and we started for Hailsham. The little town was *en fête* for the cricket week, and we took advantage of the festivities by holding a meeting on the recreation ground between the close of the days' cricket and the opening of the evening's concert. The opening was difficult work for Miss Neilans, who seemed to be talking to empty air; but two or three gathering round formed a centre, and by the time I had reached the middle of my speech we were surrounded by a keenly interested crowd.

In the meanwhile we had arranged to send round the town-crier to announce the events of the following day: one was a Suffrage At Home and tea for women in the afternoon, in and round the van, for which a pitch had been given to us by a farmer's friendly wife, a pleasant spot in a rustic lane, between a golden cornfield and a meadow; the other was a meeting at eight in the evening in the market place.

That night I had my first experience of sleeping in a travelling caravan, and found it pleasant. Delightful, too, was the meeting between myself and my young companions (who had a room close by) and our gay talk over the little breakfast table of the van.

But, alas! as the day advanced the weather changed; the wind came in wild gusts, there were sweeping storm showers, and we soon saw that our Suffrage tea would be impossible. Notwithstanding the weather, several sympathizers visited us, and in the evening, under what seemed like impossible conditions, we held a meeting, which I must confess surprised me. Heedless of the rain, a crowd of from 150 to 200 were gathered in the market place waiting for us.

Miss Neilans spoke for about twenty minutes. By that time the clouds had broken, and there was a fair interval, during which I spoke. Many questions followed. We were asked in particular to explain our attitude towards the Liberal Government, and I think we succeeded in convincing the majority of the audience that ours is "the only way."

We are now on the road travelling to Battle, whither Miss Lenn has gone before us by train to make arrangements for meetings.

All has gone well. Everywhere we meet with sympathy and goodwill. We have more than paid our expenses, and we hope to leave behind us memories that will be fruitful in new strength to the League, new hope for the movement.

C. DESPARD.

Which Nature?

THE argument that the sex which is muscularly stronger must do the ruling for both is not only so crude and *naïve* that one marvels how it can ever have been gravely stated, but is also radically false. What can be said about the argument that nature prescribes her place to woman—a place which excludes such a contingency as the exercise of the political Franchise?

One might simply point out that the great changes in the educational and industrial conditions of women—a phenomenon which is part and parcel of the evolution of rational beings like any other—would necessarily entail a corresponding change in custom and habits of thought; but I prefer to point to the standards that have been upheld from time to time as "natural" for women, and to inquire which of them is to be regarded as the natural, final, and fitting. We have had the Hindu woman, subject to some male from birth—father, brother, husband, and son—married as a tiny child, and burnt upon her husband's pyre; who was taught nothing, and could claim nothing of life or home. We have had the Western abbess, who ruled great houses of women and men, presided over schools of learning for both sexes, was summoned by the King's writ as a peer of Parliament, who helped to missionize Europe, and rode about with face uncovered—she and her nuns with her—astride, as was the custom of that day. Which of these two types—both created by religions—is the "natural"? There is the Turkish woman, immured in a harem, drinking sherbet and eating sweets, and sprawling on divans all day; and there is the English woman who is head surgeon of a London hospital, and has graduated at a university. Which of these types—both created by social conditions—is the "womanly"? There is, again, the Chinese woman of to-day—carried about pick-a-back or crawling on hands and knees, because Chinese men think deformed feet a loveliness in the other sex; and the deformity renders her incapable even of walking upright on her feet, a power conquered by the human species some millions of years ago. And in the first centuries of our era there were the Roman matrons, who did away with the old Latin laws which made them and their property alike chattels in the husband's hand, who refused to go through the sacred time-honoured religious marriage rite which entailed these consequences, lived as free adults with husband and children in homes where they possessed the fullest rights over their own persons, lives, and property, helped when the time came to found Christianity in the West, became—as Jerome himself testifies—the competent critics of his work on the Scriptures, and have handed down their very name—*matrona*, her own woman, not *mulier*, the husband's woman—as the synonym of female dignity.

Which are women to choose—the Chinese type, man-made, or the type of the matron, which she made for herself?

Which was the right attitude towards women—that of the ages of chivalry, or that (still obtaining in those European countries where modern notions and modern laws for the relief of women have least penetrated) which makes of the woman the beast of burden, the woman carrying the loads while the men walk empty handed, or the men riding while the women walk?

It must be recognized that these questions are interesting, in view of the fact that the pitiless logic of men enables them to assure us that nature has prescribed a "place" to women, and that until the irruption of modern ideas—some go so far as to say until or unless they have the Parliamentary vote—the social system, prescribed and upheld by males, has kept and will keep them in this "place."

To the simple feminine mind, on the contrary, it would appear that there is nothing so artificial or so terrifyingly "unnatural" which the other sex has not thought, at one time or another, "natural" for women. What is the common element, pointed out by "nature" as becoming to womankind, in the types we have been looking at? Which of these types has most sinned against womanly ideals, and may be traced to the action of quite other forces than "nature"? I think that the only common element among these types, upheld one by

one as "feminine" by the male sex, was that the women bore the children. This piece of nature could not be taken away from them even by men, and will remain with them after they get the vote.

Is it not time that an artificial standard which the men have set up should no longer usurp the place of that strong and harmonious thing, the standard set up by nature herself?

M. A. R. T.

Haggerston By-Election.

MEMBERS of the Women's Freedom League spent an exciting and crowded week in this constituency (under the generalship of Mrs. Moore), holding vigorous propaganda meetings, and loyally pressing forward our anti-Government policy. Pressure was brought to bear upon us directly and indirectly, suggesting that we should modify our attitude towards the Liberal candidate, "such a nice man," "in favour of Women's Suffrage," &c., but it was unanimously agreed that the policy of our League, to "keep the Liberal out," must be rigidly adhered to, until such time as a definite statement is made by the Government with regard to our question.

Seventy-seven meetings were held in the space of five days, some under considerable difficulty, as meetings of one or another shade of politics were being held at every available spot. Mrs. Despard began by addressing four meetings in three hours; Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Sproson were absolutely indefatigable, and Mrs. Brindley spoke seven times in one day; the Central Branch, too, did yeoman service for the League. We had the usual opposition from Liberal electors, including the singularly ineffective arguments of tomatoes, cabbage stumps, liquid mud, &c. The Adult Suffragists were there too, with the "herring" we are so tired of, but they had the grace to confine themselves to words. On the whole our speakers were very popular, and it was encouraging to see that the women of Haggerston were with us all along the line. On polling-day our women were outside all the polling stations, calling upon the voters as they passed in to "keep the Liberal out," or to "vote against the Government which refuses justice to women."

The following members and friends took part in the campaign: Miss Bennett, Dr. Helen Bourchier, Mrs. Brindley, Miss Barry, Miss Buckland, Miss Cash, Miss Cale, Mrs. Despard, Miss Fox, Miss Fraser, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. How Martyn, The Miss Hendersons, Miss Hillsworth, Miss Hull, Dr. Knight, Miss Levy, Miss Molony, Miss Mahoney (Middlesboro'), Miss Martindale, Miss Neilans, Miss Taplin, Miss Thompson, Mrs. Sproson, Mrs. Watkins, Miss L. Williams, Mr. Alberry, Mr. Aylwin, Mr. Jones, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Stanley.

Branch Notes.

Western Branch, Glasgow.—Mrs. Wilson, the enthusiastic President of this Branch, is spending some holidays in Bangor, Ireland, and has been trying to stir up the people she meets to take an interest in "Votes for Women." Mrs. Wilson is staying with a lady who is in true sympathy with this and all questions affecting women—Dr. Harriette Neill, who is also on the Board of Guardians. They have done a great deal of canvassing in the district, and enlisted the support and sympathy of Lady Hermione Blackwood, and many others, and have arranged to hold a public meeting on Aug. 13th in support of Women's Enfranchisement, and for the purpose of forming a Bangor Branch of the Women's Freedom League.

Mrs. Wilson will give an address, and the chair will be filled by Mr. W. Meekin, J.P., Chairman of the District Council. J. G. W., Secretary.

London Council.

Organizer.—We have the pleasure to announce the appointment of Miss Dorothy Molony as Organizer to the London Council. Miss Molony, who entered upon her new duties on the 23rd ult., has placed herself in communication with the

hon. secretaries of the federated branches, and arrangements are being made for her to visit each of the branches in turn and meet the local members.

District Meetings.—The Council will be pleased to co-operate with local branches in the organization of public meetings, and secretaries having such meetings in contemplation are invited to communicate with the writer.

Sunday Socials.—For the convenience of members engaged on weekdays we are arranging to hold a series of socials on Sunday evenings, commencing August 30th, on which date our Chairman (Dr. Thornett) will be "At Home" to members and their friends at the Holborn Town Hall from 7 P.M. to 10 P.M. Dr. Thornett will be supported by Mrs. Despard, Miss Molony, and other speakers. All members and friends are invited to attend; and men will be welcome, as visitors. Those willing to contribute to the programme, or to assist as stewards are requested to communicate with Miss Molony, 18, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

Business Meetings.—Delegates are reminded that the next meeting of the Council will be held at 32, Southampton Street, Strand, on Wednesday, the 19th inst., at 8 P.M.

MARIE LAWSON, Hon. Sec.

My first visit to a local branch as Organizer for the London Council will be to Lewisham on Tuesday, the 11th inst. Miss Henderson, the newly appointed secretary, is an indefatigable worker, and I hope, with her help, to stir up local interest in the cause and in our League. I am booking other dates for the London branches in the order of application; and I shall be glad to hear from those secretaries who have not written to me.

I appeal to all London members to co-operate with us in order to ensure the success of the proposed Sunday evening socials, which I feel sure will be appreciated by those who, being employed during the week, are unable to attend our usual Thursday socials. An open invitation is given to members and friends, but special invitation cards will be sent to any address on application. DOROTHY MOLONY, Organizer.

Cyclists' Corps.

The run arranged for Saturday next, the 15th, to Dulwich has been postponed. The next meet will be on Saturday the 22nd at Marble Arch, when our destination will be Bedford Park, and we shall have Miss Molony as our principal speaker. MARIE LAWSON.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

August 12th to 30th.

			P.M.
Wed. 12.	The Flagstaff, Hampstead Heath	Mrs. J. Brindley	7.15
Thurs. 13.	"At Home," Caxton Hall, Westminster	Miss Molony Mrs. Despard	3.30
	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch	Dr. Helen Bourchier Mrs. Holmes	8
	The Clock, Thornton Heath	Mrs. J. Brindley Miss Hillsworth	7.30
Fri. 14.	Prince's Head, Battersea	Mrs. Holmes Miss Fraser	7.30
Sun. 16.	Battersea Park Brockwell Park	Mrs. Duval and others Mrs. Duval Miss Elliott	3.30
	Clapham Common Finsbury Park	Miss Molony and other speakers Miss Underwood Miss Ridler and other speakers	6.30 3.0
	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch	Mrs. Holmes Miss Mary Pearson Miss Fox	3.30 12
	Wandsworth Common	Mrs. Duval Miss Underwood	7.45
Tues. 18.	The Fountain, Sutton	Mrs. Holmes Miss Fraser	7.15
Wed. 19.	The Flagstaff, Hampstead Heath	Mrs. J. Brindley Mrs. Nevinson	3.30
Thurs. 20.	"At Home," Caxton Hall Westminster	Mrs. Coates Hansen Mrs. Despard	8
	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch	Central Branch Members (Cyclists' Corps)	7-10
Sat. 22.	Bedford Park		
Sun. 30.	"At Home," Holborn Town Hall		

Caravan Route, August.—Appledore, 12th-15th; Smeeth, 15th-18th; Hythe, Sandgate, Folkstone, 18th-25th; Dover 25th-27th; Deal, 27th.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 38, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.
Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.
Hon. Literature Secretary: A. S. F. MORRIS.

Notes and Comments.

A WORK of considerable interest to Women Suffragists, and especially to those men who are striving to help the cause, is reviewed in these columns. Among the many difficulties with which we have to contend is the attitude of the man who declines to hear our positive arguments, on the ground that we are advocating an unheard-of innovation. "Men always have governed and women have always been at home," he says, and he opposes the impenetrable barrier of an erroneous impression with its twin towers—prejudice and self-satisfaction—to all the assaults of historic truth and reason.

Obviously it does not follow from the fact that Egyptian queens exercised political power that English women ought to have votes. But the sort of man we have described—the dear old "matter-of-fact" man—is far more likely to be captured by a flank attack than by a frontal display in full force. Upset his fondly cherished prejudice, and he becomes at once the rational person he is in the familiar round of barter and exchange.

That is why we advocates of an obviously logical reform must fortify ourselves with all sorts of really irrelevant matter, so that we may slip behind the official rampart. Once the breach is made the reasonableness of our cause will do its work.

Clapham Branch.

THE members are taking an active part in the Sunday open-air meetings held regularly in Wandsworth, Clapham, and Battersea. Mr. E. Duval and Mr. Victor D. Duval, the branch secretary, have spoken several times on the Women's Freedom League platforms. The meetings are held at 11.30 A.M. on Wandsworth Common, at 3.30 P.M. in Battersea Park, and at 7 P.M. on Clapham Common.

Manchester Branch.

AN open-air meeting was held at Marshall's Croft, Cheetham Hill, on Thursday, the 30th July. The principal speaker was Mrs. Swanwick, M.A., of the North of England Society. There was an audience of some 250, who were interested and orderly. Mr. Sam Brooks, one of the secretaries of the branch, was in the chair, and Mr. E. G. Taylor, another member, also spoke. Literature was distributed in considerable quantities.

The branch has decided to join in the meeting which is being arranged in the Free Trade Hall on October 23rd, and the procession and demonstration on October 24th. All the Suffrage societies are joining in this demonstration, as well as the Co-operative Guild and other women's organizations.

Liverpool and Birkenhead.

MR. ALLERTON reports vigorous work in Liverpool and Birkenhead. On August 5th a meeting was held at the Seaforth Overhead Railway terminus; another was arranged to take place last night at S. Domingo Pit. On the 19th a third will be held at the old Haymarket, Birkenhead; and on the 26th a fourth at the top of Mount Pleasant, Liverpool—both these latter beginning at 8 o'clock.

The Seaforth meeting was well reported in the *Waterloo Herald*, and the audience, which was quiet and attentive, numbered several hundred. Mr. Allerton took the chair, and explained the principles of the Men's League. Miss Broadhurst, of the Liverpool Society for Women's Suffrage, discussed the conditions under which women have been compelled to follow their work from their homes to the factories, while Mr. A. A. Roden pointed out the absurdity of denying to women employers and women workers the political rights which are possessed by men.

Literature.

As was pointed out in the Women's Freedom League columns last week, it is important that our members should lay in a store of propagandist literature for use on their holidays. The Hon. Literature Secretary, Mr. A. S. F. Morris, will be glad to supply, in addition to membership application forms and copies of our First Annual Report, the following pamphlets:

Report of Speeches. Delivered at the Queen's Hall Meeting last December by W. H. Dickinson, M.P., the Earl Russell, the Rev. R. J. Campbell ('Women's Suffrage and the Social Evil'), Israel Zangwill, and the Rev. Canon Hicks. Price 3d. each; 2s. a dozen.

The Sex Symphony. By John Russell, M.A. Price 3d. Unfortunately we cannot give reduced prices for this, owing to trade arrangements; we were misinformed on this point originally.

Besides these two, our literature department is provided with all the ordinary Suffrage literature.

The importance of spreading literature is not to be over-estimated. We who move in a Suffrage-laden atmosphere necessarily forget that there are still many who know next to nothing about the cause. The "Speeches" pamphlet is a very good introduction, for several reasons. In the first place people always ask, "Who are the members of the Men's League?" Now, the five men whose speeches are therein given (in full) represent very different types of thought and occupation; all are prominent in their several spheres. The average man will be struck at once by the fact that the League is not all of one colour in respect of politics or of religion.

In the second place, and for the same reason, the reader will find the case set forth from different points of view, with the result that the subject of Women's Suffrage, as it appears to men, is very usefully outlined.

For these reasons the pamphlet is not in any sense out of date. The stock at the office is being rapidly depleted, and therefore we hope that our readers will lose no time in ordering it, especially for distribution among those to whom the subject is comparatively new.

Song.

With apologies to the shade of Matt. Prior.

The Premier said his Suffrage measure
On "democratic lines" he'd frame,
But woman would not wait his pleasure,
She saw his artful little game.

To Stephen Asquith's "darling lyre"
This Phyllis would not tune her lay;
To call the tune was her desire,
Since she the piper had to pay.

Still in revolt her voice to raise,
This naughty damsel deemed it wise;
She sang the woman's Marseillaise,
The British public rubbed its eyes!

And so, though Mrs. Grundy frowned,
This Suffragist has never trembled;
And Asquith, if he looks around,
May see how ill he has dissembled!

ERNEST BLAKE.

Where Civilization Began.

A VALUABLE addition to the knowledge of the position of women in the civilized communities of antiquity is made by Miss Janet R. Buttles in 'The Queens of Egypt' (A. Constable & Co., 1908). Miss Buttles presents a chronological list, with biographical details, of all the women sovereigns of Egypt, from the earliest known times to the conquest of the country by Cambyses. The title of the book, inasmuch as it takes no account of the Greek queens of the Ptolemaic period, nor of any subsequent female rulers, is more comprehensive than its contents—it was, however, no part of the author's object to attempt another characterization of Cleopatra, of Shajur al Durr, the famous Ayyubite queen, or of any non-native princesses. Her object is to elucidate the place in the affairs of the State occupied by the wives of the Pharaohs, to tell what is known of their personalities, and, incidentally, to make more clear the general status of women in ancient Egypt. Miss Buttles makes no claim to original research, but she has studied with minute care all the available data, and has marshalled her material with admirable skill. The outstanding result of her investigations is to emphasize the pre-eminent position held in Egypt by women in nearly all phases of life. Yet this position she appears often to have abdicated. "The law of the land gave theoretically the chief supremacy to women... The man, perhaps, owed his inheritance to her... [but]... the woman usually relegated her sovereign rights to her husband." So writes Miss Buttles, and no doubt with truth. Woman in lands other than Egypt still, usually, relegates her sovereign (and other) rights to man. But in Egypt from 4000 B.C. down to the beginning of the Christian era, that is so long as native races reigned, the rights of women were always acknowledged. In the words of Prof. Maspero (in a preface to this book), "the Egyptian woman enjoyed far greater personal independence than was usually accorded to the women of the East. She had a large share not only in the government of the family but also in religious ceremonies, and even in the affairs of the exterior world. The records of the monuments show her to have been as actively concerned in the affairs of her day, war alone excepted, as her father, her husband, or her son." How this state of affairs was brought about is not clear. Government by the voice of the citizens was not in vogue, but in the dawn of the history of the race the sense of the equality of the sexes appears to have been more clear than it is now. In theory the government was theocratic, and the rulers of the land claimed descent from the sun god. As guardians of the purity of the divine race the women of the pharaonic family were in greater repute than their men relatives, and foreign princes who imposed their sovereignty on the land always sought alliance with princesses of the royal line of Amen-Ra. Without this solar connexion no prince was regarded as legitimate, and from this necessity of keeping the line pure arose the custom of marriage between brother and sister. We see, in short, in this early period in the history of the world woman in an exalted position, but with an ethical sense undeveloped, as was also that of the man. The point is noteworthy that women were in this respect equal, and not inferior to men.

Although the women Pharaohs usually relegated their sovereign rights to their husbands, they did not do so always, and Egypt has scarcely possessed a more notable sovereign than Queen Hatshepsut, who flourished about 1500 B.C. So great was her power that while she lived Tethmosis III. (the nominal Pharaoh) was completely obscured, and yet he was a man of immense energy and ability and a great conqueror. Hatshepsut reigned for about twenty-two years and kept the

realm in peace, being a liberal patron both of art and of commerce. Another memorable queen and (judging by the sculptures) a much more beautiful woman was Queen Thyi, wife of Amen-hetep III., who achieved her position despite the fact that she was not of the royal race. Throughout her married life she appears to have exercised almost equal authority with that of the king, and was in more than one instance appealed to directly by foreign potentates in matters affecting international affairs. These two instances must suffice to illustrate the important part played by the queens in ancient Egypt; it remains to say that the book is illustrated with numerous reproductions of sculptures and other likenesses of the queens which are instinct with life and (often) with beauty. Miss Buttles is to be congratulated on a work which should satisfy the most exacting Egyptologist, and commend itself to all students of the place in the world's history held by women.

FRANK R. CANA.

Woman's Freedom.

CHATS ABOUT PERSONS AND BOOKS.

No. 7.—An Harbrououé, &c.—(continued).

"Her first scholemaster with whome I was familiar, a ma very honest and learned... tolde me once, that he learned eueri day more of her, then she of him... he thus expounded it. I teach her wordes (quod he) and she me things... In like maner an Italian which tought her his tonge, said once to me that he founde in her ii qualities, whiche are neuer lightly yock fellows in one woman, which were a singular witte, and a meruelous meeke stomacke, I would haue thoughte that these men had thus commended her, because she was their mistresse: but by certaine knowledge other waies I understode that it was true and that they might haue said much more and not haue lied." Aylmer also giues some aduice to the women: "Oh you Englishe ladies, learne here rather to weare Romain hartes, then Spanish kanks, rather to helpe youre cuntry, then hinder your husbandes, to make your quene ryche for your defese... If euery one of you would but imploy your ringes and chaines, or the price of your superfluous ruffles, fures, fringes, and such other trinkettes upon the necessary defece of your cuntry: I thinke you shulde make the quene much... habler to mete with your enemies." And to the men he says:—

"Furthermor for the sauegard of your cuntry, if you be called to the warres, grutche not nor grone not at it: go with good willes and lusty courages, rather to mete them in the field, the to tarry til they come home to you, and hang you at your own gates... Sheve your selues true Englishe men in readiness, courage and boldnes: and be ashamed to be the last, feare neither french nor Scot..."

"Saying that William of Normady crept in among us through the cyuill warre of two brethren, Herald and Toston. And yet what did he? He left his posteritie to reigne, which were rather by tyme turned to be Englishe: then the noble Englishe, to become Frenche, as our tongue and manners at this day declareth, which differeth very lytle from our Auncestors the valyaunt Saxones: We haue a few hunting termes and Pedlars Frenche in the lousye law, brought in by the Normanes yet remaying: But the language and customes bee Englyshe and Saxonyshes."

(To be continued).

WOMAN IN RELATION TO THE STATE.

By G. CALDERON.

6d. net; by post, 7d.

THE PRIORY PRESS, High Street, Hampstead.

MISS EDITH GIBBS COACHES for PUBLIC SPEAKING, including Perfect Voice Production, Elocution, &c. Classes resume SEPTEMBER 15th. — BECHSTEIN HALL STUDIOS, 40, Wigmore Street, W.

GERMAN OFFICER'S WIDOW (English) receives PAYING GUEST. Facilities for learning German. Frau Hauptmann Bindowald, Halle a/ Saale Kl. Ulrich Straasse 17.

MRS. LILIAN TILLARD, Westwood, Southborough, is having a leaded printed, LIFE IN PRISON—to be sold, per hundred, at cost price—to enlighten people who imagine Holloway is all beer and skittles!

SUFFRAGIST offers PURE SECTION HONEY at 10d. a Section, carriage paid. Ten per cent. of profits will be given to Women's Franchise.—Apply (Miss) M. BARCELON, Letcombe Bassett Rectory, Wantage.

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